



## Middle States Commission on Higher Education

3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680. Tel: 267-284-5000. Fax: 215-662-5501  
www.msche.org

January 5, 2016

Maj. Gen. Frederick M. Padilla, USMC  
President  
National Defense University  
Bldg 62 - Marshall Hall  
Fort McNair, DC 20319-5066

Dear General Padilla:

At its session on January 4, 2016, the Executive Committee for Substantive Change of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted:

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the additional location at the Joint Forces Staff College, 1141 Stewart Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80914 provisionally within the scope of the institution's accreditation pending a site visit within six months of the commencement of operations at this location. The Commission requires written notification within thirty days of the commencement of operations at this additional location. In the event that operations at the additional location do not commence within one calendar year from the approval of this action, approval will lapse. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2018.

This action is a substantive change action. An explanation of this type of action is provided in the Commission's policy *Accreditation Actions*, which is available on the Commission's website.

For more information on submitting a follow-up report, please see Commission guidelines *Follow-up Reports and Visits*. The institution is obligated to make a full and honest disclosure in its reports.

If the request for a follow-up report includes Standard 3, the Commission requires that you include in or submit with the report the following data for the three most recent years: Title IV cohort default rates; USDE Financial Responsibility Composite Scores; and the status with regard to Heightened Cash Management with USDE.

If the request for a follow-up report includes Standard 14, the Commission requires that you include in or submit with the report the following data for the three most recent years: 100%, 150%, and 200% normal time to completion graduation rates. For graduate-only institutions, please provide appropriate data on student outcomes such as normal time to completion rates.

Enclosed is a copy of the institution's Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) for your review. If any of the factual information is incorrect, please contact the Commission as soon as possible.

Maj. Gen. Frederick M. Padilla, USMC  
Page 2

In accordance with the policy *Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status*, the accreditation status of the institution must be accurately represented. Please ensure that published references to your institution's candidate status or accredited status (catalog, other publications, web page) are accurate and include the full name, address, and telephone number of the accrediting agency, and the effective date (month and year) when status was granted. Candidate for Accreditation is a status with the Commission that indicates that an institution has achieved membership and is progressing toward, but is not assured of, accreditation.

Please be assured of the continuing interest of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in the well-being of National Defense University. If any further clarification is needed regarding the SAS or other items in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Debra G. Klinman, Vice President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George A. Pruitt, Ph.D.  
Chair



**MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**  
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[www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org)

## STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

**NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY**  
**Bldg 62 - Marshall Hall**  
**Fort McNair, DC 20319-5066**  
**Phone: (202) 685-4700; Fax: (202) 685-3935**  
**[www.ndu.edu](http://www.ndu.edu)**

**Chief Executive Officer:** Maj. Gen. Frederick M. Padilla, USMC, President

### INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

**Enrollment (Headcount):** 1871 Graduate  
**Control:** Public  
**Affiliation:** Government-Federal- Department of Defense  
**Carnegie Classification:** Not Classified  
**Approved Degree Levels:** Postbaccalaureate Award/Cert/Diploma, Master's;  
**Distance Education Programs:** Fully Approved  
**Accreditors Recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education:** n/a  
**Other Accreditors:** Process for Joint Accreditation (PAJE) conducted by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Centers of Academic Excellence by National Security Agency

### Instructional Locations

**Branch Campuses:** Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.  
**Additional Locations:** John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School Bank Hall, Fort Bragg, NC; Joint Forces Staff College, Tampa, FL; Joint Forces Staff College, Colorado Springs, CO (ANYA).  
**Other Instructional Sites:** None

### ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

**Status:** Member since 1997  
**Last Reaffirmed:** November 21, 2013

### Most Recent Commission Action:

January 4, 2016: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the additional location at the Joint Forces Staff College, 1141 Stewart Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80914 provisionally within the scope of the institution's accreditation pending a site visit within six months of the

commencement of operations at this location. The Commission requires written notification within thirty days of the commencement of operations at this additional location. In the event that operations at the additional location do not commence within one calendar year from the approval of this action, approval will lapse. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2018.

### **Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:**

- November 21, 2013: To accept the monitoring report and to note the visit by the Commission's representatives. To remove the warning and reaffirm accreditation because the institution is now in compliance with Standard 3 (Institutional Resources) and Standard 5 (Administration). To request a progress report, due April 1, 2015, providing further evidence that (1) due consideration is granted to the role of the chief information officer in making decisions about the allocation of institutional resources (Standard 3); (2) administrative leaders in the area of information technology are selected with appropriate consideration to continuity of service, and have the skills, degrees and training to carry out their responsibilities and functions (Standard 5); (3) adequate resources are allocated to the institutional research office so that data are collected, managed, archived and used to ensure effective decision-making (Standard 7); and (4) institutional assessment results are used to renew strategic planning, to support resource allocation, and to achieve documented improvements in programs, services, and processes (Standard 7). The Periodic Review Report is now due June 1, 2018.
- June 25, 2015: To accept the progress report. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2018.

**Next Self-Study Evaluation:** 2022 - 2023

**Next Periodic Review Report:** 2018

**Date Printed:** January 5, 2016

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Branch Campus** - A location of an institution that is geographically apart and independent of the main campus of the institution. The location is independent if the location: offers courses in educational programs leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential; has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization; and has its own budgetary and hiring authority.

**Additional Location** - A location, other than a branch campus, that is geographically apart from the main campus and at which the institution offers at least 50 percent of an educational program. ANYA ("Approved but Not Yet Active") indicates that the location is included within the scope of accreditation but has not yet begun to offer courses. This designation is removed after the Commission receives notification that courses have begun at this location.

**Other Instructional Sites** - A location, other than a branch campus or additional location, at which the institution offers one or more courses for credit.

**Distance Education Programs** - Fully Approved, Approved (one program approved) or Not Approved indicates whether or not the institution has been approved to offer diploma/certificate/degree programs via distance education (programs for which students could meet 50% or more of the requirements of the program by taking distance education courses). Per the Commission's Substantive Change policy, Commission approval of the first two Distance Education programs is required to be "Fully Approved." If only one program is approved by the Commission, the specific name of the program will be listed in parentheses after "Approved."

Commission actions are explained in the policy *Accreditation Actions*.